In the claims:

1-12 (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) An optical scanner for reading indicia by effecting a scanning motion of a light beam in an x-axis direction across an indicia to be read, said scanner comprising:

(a) a laser for producing a an unmodified light beam of non-circularly-symmetric cross-section, having an x-axis and a y-axis, beam divergence in the x axis being greater than beam divergence in the y axis;

(b) negative beam-shaping optics in the outgoing beam path for adjusting the y axis divergence independently of the x axis divergence.

14. (original) An optical scanner according to Claim 13 wherein the beam-shaping optics comprises a concave part-cylindrical mirror.

15. (original) An optical scanner according to Claim 14 wherein said mirror defines the mirror axis, said mirror axis lying in the x axis direction.

16. (currently amended) An optical scanner according to Claim 13 further comprising beam-shaping optics in the beam for equally adjusting the x and y axis divergence.

17. (original) An optical scanner according to Claim 13 wherein the laser is a gain guided.

18. (original) An optical scanner according to Claim 13 wherein the laser is an index guided laser.

19. (original) An optical scanner according to Claim 13 wherein the beam has an x-waist, at which its x axis dimension is least, and a y-waist, at which its y axis dimension is least, said x waist being located further from the scanner than the y waist.

20. (original) An optical scanner according to Claim 19 wherein the negative beam-shaping optics adjusts the spacing between the x and y waist without change in overall magnification.

21. (new) An optical scanner for reading indicia by effecting a scanning motion of a light beam in an x-axis direction across an indicia to be read, said scanner comprising:

(a) a laser for producing a light beam of non-circularly-symmetric cross-section, having an x-axis and a y-axis, beam divergence in the x axis being greater than beam divergence in the y axis, and wherein the beam has an x-waist, at which its x axis dimension is least, and a y-waist, at which its y axis dimension is least, said x waist being located further from the scanner than the y waist.;

(b) negative beam-shaping optics in the beam path for adjusting the y axis divergence independently of the x axis divergence without change in overall magnification.